

SPECULATION IN CORN.

The Speculation Manifested to Get at the Agricultural Department's Crop Reports.

The Stock of Corn on Hand—Why Corn is a Favorite With Corn Dealers.

Judging from the demand upon the bureau of agriculture for authoritative estimates of the quantity of last year's crop of corn yet remaining in first hands, it is evident that the people are consumed with an eagerness for statistics on that particular point. The attention of the speculative public is being directed very largely to the produce and grain market nowadays, and everybody who has invested in the big game wants to know how he stands. The corn situation, so far as it relates to the supply on hand, may be briefly stated in the language of a bureau attaché as follows:

"The seven surplus corn states, whose production regulates the commercial value of the cereal, viz., Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska, produced 855,000 bushels last year, or about 90 per cent. of the total crop. On the first of March there was on hand in these states 330,000 bushels, against 320,000,000 bushels on the same date in 1882, and 413,000,000 in 1881. From the first of March last to the first of March this year, 125,000,000 bushels of the 330,000,000 bushels have been consumed, leaving about 205,000,000 to run on during the next six months. It has been estimated that 400,000,000 bushels of the crop of 1885 remained on hand at the beginning of the crop year of 1885. This is a great error. A large estimate would be 200,000,000 bushels. Last year, the old corn carried over into the new crop year was less than 50,000,000 bushels, and this year the amount is not likely to be largely in excess of that figure. The corn situation in the western states will fall off considerably during the early summer months, but in the south there will be a big home demand until nearly the end of July. The statistics in his last report in discussing this very matter say:

"The present situation is actually worse than the figures appear to make it, because, while there is more corn in this belt of states than a year ago, the amount in the principal feeding districts, from which also the corn surplus is mainly shipped, is scarcely greater than last year. These are the reasons that make the prices and available commercial supply.

A heavy New York speculator in grain gave his views with regard to the future of the corn market a day or two ago as follows: "The conditions in the corn market are favorable for a big corner" in corn than they are at the present writing. "The supreme court of Illinois has lately rendered a decision which virtually upholds corners, and the heavy operators in the Chicago board of trade will feel encouraged to take bold steps, and run a corn corner. The yield of the crop is not so good as the corn surplus is mainly shipped, is scarcely greater than last year. These are the reasons that make the prices and available commercial supply.

"Millions of dollars which are locked up in pork during the winter months will soon be released, and as the owners of these millions do not like to let their capital lie idle they will be quick to snap at corn or anything else that promises a little more than the ordinary rate. Corn has been declining for weeks, and in my opinion the very men who will be in a corner, if one should develop, are now bearing the market in order to lay at bottom figures. Armour, David, Downs, Kuhn, Hatch, Hobbs, and the other big grain dealers, have been speculating for a long time and they are due for a break of some sort. These are only the views of one man, and are worth no more than the views of any other one man, who tries to keep up with the undercurrent of events."

"OLD GLORY'S" ANNIVERSARY.

Sixty-Five Years Ago To-day the Present Flag of the Union Was First Unfurled on the Capitol.

The sixty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the American flag is to be commemorated to-day. Linked as it is, with the most memorable sea battle ever fought by Americans, it deserves to be legalized a holiday. On the thirteenth of April, 1818, the first American flag of the present design was hoisted on the capitol at 2 o'clock p. m. It was designed by the late Capt. Samuel C. Reid, who commanded the private armed brig Gen. Armstrong. The heroic fight of this single brig at Fayal on the 24th of September, 1814, a British fleet, was perhaps the most extraordinary naval contest recorded, surpassed by none, paralleled only by Richard Grenville's heroic fight with one small boat against an entire Spanish fleet about 300 years before on the same date. The capture of Reid's flag saved Louisiana from the British grasp. Capt. Reid died in 1861, and it was only at the first session of the last congress that the American government recognized the fact that he had fought a battle by making a small appropriation to indemnify the owners, officers, and crew of the little brig for the loss sustained in its destruction. A monument to Reid should be erected in this city, and a painting of his great battle, which has been fully called "The Flag of the Union," hung in the capitol.

The flag, as adopted by congress in 1794, was composed of fifteen stars and fifteen stripes, which neither represented the old states or the new, while the flag was becoming unwieldy by adding a stripe for every state admitted into the union. In December, 1816, Indiana having been admitted into the union, the Hon. P. H. Wendover, of the house, from New York, moved for a committee to inquire into the expediency of altering the flag.

While the committee was in session Capt. Reid was called upon to form a permanent design of the flag, so as to represent the increase of the states without destroying its distinctive character, and was proposed to add a star and a stripe on the admission of each new state. He reduced the stripes to thirteen, to represent the original thirteen colonies which had won their freedom as independent states, and formed a union of stars representing all the states, with provision for a new star to be added for every new state admitted to the union, the new star to be added to the flag on the succeeding fourth of July after such admission, fixing on the happy medium of combining the glory of the past with the progress of the present.

The act to establish the flag of the United States was approved on the fourth of April, 1818, and the first flag of its design was made by the wife of Capt. Reid, assisted by a number of ladies in the city of New York, and sent to Washington.

It arrived in this city by mail April 13, 1818, and at 2 o'clock that afternoon, was hoisted over the capitol to replace the old one. January 28, 1853, in the thirty-third congress, the bill to indemnify the owners, officers, and crew of the Gen. Armstrong was up in the United States senate, and Senator A. G. Brown, of Mississippi, advocated the bill, and acknowledged the services he rendered, not alone in the great battle, but in designing the flag. In February, 1859, a joint resolution was reported from the senate committee on naval affairs presenting the thanks of congress to Capt. Reid for designing the flag. Owing to the lateness of the hour on the last day of the session, when it was presented, it failed of passage.

In 1821 Capt. Reid established the first marine telegraph between the Battery, at New York, and Staten Island, and made a code of ship signals. In the same year he organized the New York Naval Institution and Shipmasters' society. It was through his recommendation that the first lightship was placed off Sandy Hook, and in 1837 he memorialized congress for the establishment of his line of telegraph from New York to Washington and New Orleans.

Tobacco Rebate.
The following is a paragraph from the proposed regulations now under consideration by the commissioner of internal revenue in regard to the payment of rebate to manufacturers of tobacco, &c.: "Tobacco, snuff,

cigars, &c., will be regarded as held by a manufacturer where they are goods of his own production in his possession, either in his factory or in a warehouse, or in the hands of others who are held by him in storage only, as provided in section 3235, United States Revised Statutes. On goods so held the rebate may be paid in stamps, and payment will not be made in stamps on any other goods."

Illicit Distillery Captured.
The commissioner of internal revenue has received the following dispatch from A. M. Hughes, jr., collector of internal revenue at Nashville, Tenn.:

"Deputy Collector Phillips on the tenth instant destroyed the illicit distillery operated by George Ledbetter in Putnam county, Tennessee, consisting of one copper still, sixty gallons capacity, cap, and worm, eight tubs, thirty gallons singlings, 400 gallons beer. Ledbetter was lodged in jail at Cookeville."

ARMY AND NAVY NOTES.

Adjt. Gen. Drum has gone to Philadelphia for a few days. Gen. McKeever is acting adjutant general during his absence.

Admiral Cooper, commanding the North Atlantic squadron, reports the arrival of his flagship Tennessee at Key West on the sixth instant. The Vandalla and Yantic were both there.

The Keasarge parted company with the Tennessee on the fifth, and proceeded to Matanzas, Cuba. The Yantic was to remain at Key West for coal, and when ready for sea was to proceed to Elbow Key to determine accurately the position of "Marion Rock," the Tennessee and Yantic were to sail on the morning of the 10th inst. The health of the squadron as far as reported was excellent.

Naval Cadet Peter Miller was fatally scalded by the bursting of the steam pipe on board the Tennessee on the evening of the second instant, and was buried at Key West on the sixth. Admiral Cooper ordered a board to investigate all the circumstances attending the sad accident, and will report full particulars to the department as soon as possible. Cadet Miller was the only person hurt, and the ship was not in any way disabled.

In accordance with a telegram from Secretary Chandler, received at the Navy department yesterday morning, the Tallapoosa has been ordered by telegraph to proceed from Key West, Fla., to St. Augustine, to receive the presidential party on board. She will reach St. Augustine this afternoon. It is not known what the future movements of the ship will be, but it is thought that the party will start at once on the Tallapoosa for Washington.

DEPARTMENT AFFAIRS.
The Treasury department has purchased 325,000 ounces of silver for delivery at the Philadelphia and New Orleans mints.

The receipts from internal revenue yesterday were \$326,435, and from customs \$865,653. The national bank notes have been redeemed amounting to \$291,000.

The Postoffice department has declared the Portable Electric Light company, of No. 32 Water street, Boston, to be engaged in conducting a scheme to defraud the public, and the postmaster in that city has been directed to discontinue the delivery to that firm of money orders and registered packages.

The secretary of the interior says that chiefs of bureaus may excuse from duty on Monday, April 16, emancipation day, those of the colored employees who may desire to take part in the celebration, and may be spared without absolute embarrassment to the public service. An order of the same nature has been issued by the postmaster general.

On account of the reported existence of yellow fever in Cuba and other southern islands the national board of health has decided to establish quarantine stations on the southern coast of the United States. It is proposed to open the station at New Orleans on the first proximo, and those at the other southern ports not later than the fifteenth proximo.

PERSONAL.

MRS. R. H. TAYLOR, CATERER, at third street north-west, to any parties to serve with the choicest meals. Please give me call. Price, 10c, 25c, 50c, per month. ap13-3*

MARIA CARLIS, THERE IS A LETTER IN MY POCKET. Let me hear from you. ap13-3*

DIMES FRESH BUTTER AT 25c AND 30c PER POUND. Call at 1014 F street north-west. ap13-3*

SAVING PER CENT. ON FINE PARASOLS, at 25c, 50c, 75c, 1.00, 1.25, 1.50, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50, 4.00, 4.50, 5.00, 5.50, 6.00, 6.50, 7.00, 7.50, 8.00, 8.50, 9.00, 9.50, 10.00, 10.50, 11.00, 11.50, 12.00, 12.50, 13.00, 13.50, 14.00, 14.50, 15.00, 15.50, 16.00, 16.50, 17.00, 17.50, 18.00, 18.50, 19.00, 19.50, 20.00, 20.50, 21.00, 21.50, 22.00, 22.50, 23.00, 23.50, 24.00, 24.50, 25.00, 25.50, 26.00, 26.50, 27.00, 27.50, 28.00, 28.50, 29.00, 29.50, 30.00, 30.50, 31.00, 31.50, 32.00, 32.50, 33.00, 33.50, 34.00, 34.50, 35.00, 35.50, 36.00, 36.50, 37.00, 37.50, 38.00, 38.50, 39.00, 39.50, 40.00, 40.50, 41.00, 41.50, 42.00, 42.50, 43.00, 43.50, 44.00, 44.50, 45.00, 45.50, 46.00, 46.50, 47.00, 47.50, 48.00, 48.50, 49.00, 49.50, 50.00, 50.50, 51.00, 51.50, 52.00, 52.50, 53.00, 53.50, 54.00, 54.50, 55.00, 55.50, 56.00, 56.50, 57.00, 57.50, 58.00, 58.50, 59.00, 59.50, 60.00, 60.50, 61.00, 61.50, 62.00, 62.50, 63.00, 63.50, 64.00, 64.50, 65.00, 65.50, 66.00, 66.50, 67.00, 67.50, 68.00, 68.50, 69.00, 69.50, 70.00, 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